

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

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TAGS: OSCI TBIO IN

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY PROJECT -
TRIP OF SIMONS AND MEYER

REFS (I) NEW DELHI 6037, MAY 1972; (II) NEW DELHI A-216,
MAY 17, 1972; (III) NEW DELHI 6589, MAY 30, 1972;
(IV) A-250, JUNE 5, 1972

SUMMARY PRESS STORY HEADLINED " FOSSIL WEALTH BEING TAKEN TO
USA" ATTACKS YALE PROFESSOR WHO HAD WORKED IN INDIA ON A
SMITHSONIAN GRANT. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE
RE PARAGRAPH 6. END SUMMAY

1. FRONT PAGE STORY IN STATESMAN 18 APRIL HEADLINED " FOSSIL WEALTH
BEING TAKEN TO USA" STATES THE GOI SENT BACK A TEAM OF GERMAN
SCIENTISTS, LED BY DR. SCHIEIERMACHER OF HEIDELBERG
UNIVERSIY AFTER IT HAD MADE A COLLABORATION AGREEMENT FOR A 20 YEAR
RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE SYSTEM OF MARRIAGE AMONG COUSINS IN
ANDHRA.

2. RELIABLE SOURCE ADVISED THE SCIATT THAT, AFTER A NUMBER OF
VERY SUCCESSFUL SEMINARS ON HUMAN GENETICS AT INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
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CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR VOGEL FOF HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY, THE VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION THROUGH THE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE

APPROPRIATED 100,000 GERMAN MARKS (ABOUT \$33,000) FOR A STUDY TO BE BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WALTALR IN ANDRA PRADESH.

3. PROF. VOGEL' S ASSISTANT, PROF. SCHIEIERMACHER, ASSUMING OFFICIAL APPROVAL, SHIPPED EQUIPMENT BY ONE OF THE FEW SHIPS LEAVING GERMANY FOR VISHAKHAPATNAM PORT IN ANDHRA PRADESH. IN THE MEANTIME ALTERCATIONS AROSE BETWEEN INDIAN PROFESSORS WISHING TO CONTROL HUMAN GENETICS RESEARCH IN WALTALR UNIVERSITY. THE PROJECT WAS CHARGED WITH HAVING A NAZI BACKGROUND - IT WOULD BLAME THE INDIAN SYSTEM OF MARRIAGE FOR CREATING AN INFERIOR RACE. THE VICE CHANCELLOR CANCELLED THE PROJECT, PRESUMABLY ON ORDERS FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

4. SCHIEIERMACHER IS STILL SOMEWHERE IN INDIA, AND IS TRYING TO GET THE EQUIPMENT OUT OF CUSTOMS FOR USE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, ACCORD-
ING TO EMBASSY RELIABLE SOURCE.

5. ACCORDING TO THE STATESMAN ARTICLE, DR. ABHIMANYU SHARMA, SECRETARY OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS DEMANDED A SIMILAR STEP AGAINST US SCIENTISTS WANTING TO EXPLORE THE SHIVALKA (A MOUNTAIN RANGE).

6. SHARMA IS ALSO REPORTED SAYING THAT FOREIGN SCHOLARS ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM PICKING UP FOSSILS OF EVEN SNAKES AND AMMONITES FROM THE GRAND CANYON IN THE USA, BUT IN CONTRAST US SCIENTISTS HAVE TAKEN CARTLOADS OF FOSSILS FROM THE SHIVALIKA.

7. STATESMAN ACCOUNT CONTINUES THAT HE STATED THE GOI MINISTRIES OF HOME, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION HAD DECIDED AGAINST PERMITTING AMERICANS ANY ACCESS TO THE FOSSILS, BUT THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS STILL SEEMED TO BE ENTERTAINING THEIR REQUESTS THROUGH THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

8. THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL CNLXCFEGIHTS# REPORTEDLY

RELEASED A RESOLUTION VIEWING WITH " SERIOUS CONCERN THE AWARD OF THE ANNADALE MEDAL TO DR. E. L. SIMONS OF YALE UNIVERSITY BY THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL" ON THE BASIS OF THE JOINT RESEARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE TEAMS OF PUNJAB AND YALE UNIVERSITIES AS " LIKELY TO DO
IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS."

9. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THE YALE TEAM TOOK NO FOSSILS
WHATSOEVER TO THE USA AND THAT THE AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE A
VALUABLE
COLLECTION OF AMERICAN FOSSILS FOR DUPLICATES AS CHOSEN BY THE
INDIANS FROM THE FINDS IN INDIA WAS NOT CARRIED OUT BY THE PUNJAB
UNIVERSITY TEAM. FURTHER UNDERSTAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
WELCOMES THE COOPERATION OF DRS. SIMONS AND MEYER, BUT THAT
THEY HAVE NO FIRM PLANS FOR FURTHER ON- THE- SCENE RESEARCH IN INDIA.
MOST INDIAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS ARE BELIEVED TO DEPLORE THIS MISLEADING
PUBLICITY.
ERNST

NOTE BY OC/ T: # AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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